

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of storing a bicycle rack having a tongue adapted to be inserted into a class III type hitch receiver:

- 5 (a) providing a wall having interior vertical studs;
- (b) providing a class III type hitch receiver assembly, including a class III type hitch receiver [and] rigidly attached to an attachment plate [having] that defines a fastener hole that
- 10 is co-planar to said hitch receiver;
- (c) aligning said hitch receiver assembly with one of said interior vertical studs so that said fastener hole is aligned to said stud and said class III type hitch receiver is aligned to said stud, and
- 15 bolting said hitch receiver assembly to said stud by a bolt extending through said fastener hole;
- (d) inserting said tongue of said bicycle rack, into said class III type hitch receiver of said class III type hitch assembly.

20 Claims 2 through 5 (Canceled)

6. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said bicycle rack is holding a bicycle at the time step
25 (d) is performed.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said tongue of said rack is at first inserted into a class III type hitch receiver of a vehicle, and further including the step of
30 first removing said tongue of said rack from said class III hitch receiver of said vehicle.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A hitch rack retaining device, comprising:

- 5 (a) a supporting structure having a mass of less than 300 Kg; and
- (b) a class III type hitch receiver supported by and extending horizontally from said supporting structure and oriented so as to receive a
- 10 horizontally oriented hitch rack.

10. (Currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein said supporting structure is [further being] supported by a set of wheels adapted to facilitate the movement of the

15 device from one location to another.